



Annual LEAP Report

IN THIS ISSUE...

PASSION ABOUT PIGS	2
PORK DONATIONS	3
THERE’S A PIG IN MY CLASSROOM.....	4
LEAP INTERNSHIP	5
LEAP SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS	5
WAYS TO GIVE	6



PASSION ABOUT PIGS

I was thinking about the Education About Pigs recently and I had to smile about that concept. What in the world were we thinking when we decided to build Legacy Farms and the Pig Adventure at Fair Oaks Farms? Why would we take a flying “leap” like that all for the sake of showing people pigs?

I believe it begins with a fascination about pigs. Pigs have been key to our livelihood for most of our lives. This acknowledgement generates an appreciation and wonderment for pigs. I keenly recall seeing my uncle’s new pigs up close for the first time as a 10-year-old kid. I could not get enough of them. Wouldn’t everyone want to learn about these amazing creatures?

People have often commented about the passion that we have for the pigs and the people/farmers who care for the pigs. Ours is not an easy vocation. I’ve often commented that I think God made pigs to keep us humble. To manage pigs you have to generate your energy each day from your passion.

That same passion applies to Leading the Education About Pigs. Our love and knowledge of pigs compels us to share all this with people everywhere. The Pig Adventure is the most unique and complete facility in the world for showing people how we feed, breed, gestate, farrow and raise pigs. Our message regarding pig production is complete and correct.

Belstra Group Farms manages the daily operation of the large pig farm at the Pig Adventure. The LEAP Foundation has created and supports numerous ways to teach remotely via live-streamed classrooms, to train young people with scholarships, to provide pork to NW Indiana Food Banks and to financially support the touring facilities. This education is expensive. However, we believe we provide the most efficient use of your support dollars to teach thousands of people each year.

Please continue to support us with your donations in our passionate mission to Lead the Education About Pigs.

Thanks,
Malcolm DeKryger



PORK DONATIONS

LEAP has continued to donate 720 pounds of ground pork per week to local food pantries. In addition to ground pork, another avenue of pork donation is through meat sticks.

To date, 313 cases of meat sticks have been donated, which equates to 45,072 individual meat sticks.

They have gone to local food pantries, backpack programs, and students heading on service trips. The juniors and seniors at Covenant Christian High School in DeMotte took several cases with them when they went on their service trips a few years ago to a food bank in Inez, Kentucky, and also to Casa Bernabe, an orphanage in Guatemala. The students volunteered at both locations and were able to distribute the cases of meat sticks they had brought.

In April 2020, cases of meat sticks were included in care packages for medical personnel at several hospitals in the Crown Point, Indiana, area.



THERE'S A PIG IN MY CLASSROOM

Updates

One year ago we started our new, live interactive tour of the Pig Adventure in conjunction with the Indiana State Fair. Unbeknownst to us, we would have started the fastest growing educational field trip the State Fair has ever created. In the very first school year, we hosted over 10,200 elementary school kids from Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and North Carolina. We also had the opportunity to host other programs like Purdue Polytech High School, Junior Achievement Jobspark and a group of teachers from Haiti. We quickly learned that pig education is desired for all ages and from all geographic areas, even in rural areas where pigs are commonly raised. The feedback we receive from teachers continues to show that opportunities for agriculture education are limited yet needed. As we begin the new school year, we have teamed up with FFA to expand our tour across the country. This fall, we have 6,351 kids already signed up across 20 states.



Teacher Impact Spotlight

How did your students enjoy There's a Pig in My Classroom? What do you think they took away from it?

I think my students thoroughly enjoyed the program, because they were thoroughly engaged with watching the pigs and learning the birthing process. They took away knowledge of how baby pigs are taken care of as well as the mothers.

As a teacher, how would you describe this virtual field trip experience?

As a teacher, I would describe the virtual experience as unique. I for one did not know any of the information that was talked about, nor did I know so much went into taking care of those animals. Other than a couple of my students, everyone else I feel as though were on the same level as me.

How would you describe the program's impact on your students' agricultural knowledge?

I would describe the program's overall impact on my students' knowledge of agriculture as high for some and medium for others just depending on their interests or how easily they are able to understand the info.

What made you sign up for the program again this coming year?

I signed up for the program again, because it is not everyday we get to see and learn about birthing of animals. If we do, they are pictures or videos from online. Your building is local and so are the adults speaking. If they wanted to visit, they could!



Tressa Yarnelle

Kouts Elementary School
3rd Grade Teacher

LEAP INTERNSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2021 LEAP Intern



Keegan Padgett
Oklahoma State University

This summer, LEAP was able to sponsor Keegan Padgett as our pig production intern. Keegan is from Kirklin, Indiana, and will be starting his junior year at Oklahoma State University in the fall, majoring in Animal Science with a Production option. He and his family grew up raising Southdown and Horned Dorset sheep. He has competitively shown and sold sheep at the local, state, and national levels and was a 10-year 4-H member showing sheep, goats, swine, and cattle. He was also a 6-year FFA member and was named the District Star farmer his senior year. During high school, he was on the varsity wrestling team for 4 years. He currently works for a hog operation in Oklahoma, which sparked his interest for a career in production swine. His plans after college graduation include working for or operating a production swine operation.

2021 LEAP Scholarship Recipients

Anna Hannon
Rensselaer Central
High School '21



"Hello, my name is Anna Hannon and I am 18 years old and a 10 year 4-H member, 4 year FFA member and officer. In my time I have show cattle, sheep and swine at county, state, and national levels. I am also a past member Jasper Judgers Livestock Judging Team. I am attending Northern Oklahoma College this fall where I will be on the Livestock Judging Team and study Ag Business. I am honored to have received the 2021 LEAP Scholarship Award!"

Kayla Florian
South Newton
High School '21



"For my whole life, I have had a strong love and passion for taking care of animals. Having lived on a farm my whole life, I have developed an even greater love for taking care of livestock. With this being said, I plan to pursue the career path of Veterinary Medicine as well as study Animal Science at Purdue University. I am a proud 10 year 4H member! I am a proud FFA member! (well alumni now) I have been deeply involved in these 2 programs which drives my passion for livestock even more!"

WAYS TO GIVE

Donate through our website portal!

Your gift will continue to help us provide pork education opportunities through virtual programming, internships and scholarships, as well as providing donations of ground pork to local food pantries.

Thank you for your continued support.



DONATE

**Support
Leading the Education
About Pigs Foundation Inc.**

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile

Support LEAP while you shop through AmazonSmile! Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the LEAP Foundation.

*"They ran to the groceries, they filled up their carts.
They emptied the Publix and Meijer and WalMart.
They panicked and fought and then panicked some more.
Then they rushed to their homes and they locked all the doors.
The food will be gone! The milk, eggs, and cheese!
The yogurt! The apples! The green beans and peas!
The stores have run out, now what will we do?
There'll be starving and looting and nothing to do!
But the farms were still doing what farms always do,
Providing food for our tables, and energy too.
The food was still coming, though they'd emptied the shelves.
The farms kept it coming, though they struggled themselves.
Through weather and critics and markets that fall,
The farms kept on farming in spite of it all.
They'd bought all the food, yet the next day come more,
And the people thought of something they hadn't before.
Maybe food, they thought, doesn't come from a store.
Maybe farmers, perhaps, mean a little bit more."*

Adapted from a poem by Anna Richards